

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

### Application Status

The status of the application is as follows:

- Claims 1-21 are currently pending and are under consideration. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to include elements of cancelled claims 14 and 19, and claims 15 and 20 have been amended to reflect an alteration in dependency. Claim 22 has been newly added.
- Claim 15 is objected to due to a minor informality.
- Claims 1-4, 10-13, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Silbermann (US 2,942,126).
- Claims 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Silbermann in view of Amplatz (US 4,355,409).
- Claims 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Silbermann in view of Eisenberg, *et al.* (US Patent Application No. 2003/0129901).
- Claims 14, 15, 19, and 20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### The Objection to Claim 15

Claim 15 is objected to due to a minor informality. The amendment to claim 15 is believed to correct this informality, and accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

### The Rejection of Claims 1-4, 10-13, 16, and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-4, 10-13, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Silbermann. Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to include

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elements of allowable claims 14 and 19. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**The Rejection of Claims 5-9 and 17-21 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 5-9 and 17-21 are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependencies from their respective base claims.

**New Claim**

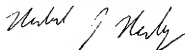
Claim 22 has been newly added, and recites elements similar to those found in amended claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, this claim is believed to be in condition for allowance.

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### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-13, 15-18, and 20-22 distinguish patentably and non-obviously over the prior art of record. An early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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